

FW: IMVE follow up

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IMVE coordination email.
Dom

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Subject: IMVE follow up

Hi, me again (for those that have received multiple emails from me this weekend – so sorry, but catching up on some things and easiest way to hit as many people as possible is through a long email).

Coming out of the protest situation (and invoking/revoking of the Emergencies Act), there are seemingly lots of questions for which we don't have answers. In particular, the extent to which IMVE elements were involved (and going forward, how can we address the issue of IMVE?).

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Namely:

- What are we dealing with when it comes to IMVE and the threat it poses to radicalization to violence (rate at which it occurs)?
- What is the definition of "serious violence"? How high is the bar before our law enforcement and security agencies can investigate, and does it include any impact on Canada's economy?
- What is our ability as the federal govt (if any) to regulate non-conventional media that are purveyors of information (dare I say misinformation/disinformation)?
- There is an angle related to MP security and press members security (two topics Talal has been involved in). When it comes to Parliamentary security, staff, offices... can MPs rely on law enforcement or CSIS for protection?
- What are the future triggers for IMVE behavior? We have seen how "vaccine mandates" was a polarizing topic that led to protests, possibly taken advantage of by IMVE types. What could be next? Climate change policy? Global events? State of the Union address in US, where convoys in Washington could lead to resurgence in Canada?
- How much of this is tied to hostile activities of state action / foreign interference... and when do we consider FI from allied countries (something we have never had to address before)?

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, that is just but one element. We need to factor in a more comprehensive view for the Minister when we respond to items above that take on board:

- Canada Center work on countering radicalization;
- Heritage's Online Harms work on taking down hateful speech from online platforms;
- Talal's work on Ministerial security;
- NSPD work that has been ongoing for over a year now on IMVE (including the PS-DHS IMVE/DVE Work Plan);

- OSINT analysis work being led by Martin Green at PCO-IAS;
- Mis/Dis-information work being led by Al Sutherland at PCO-democratic institutions

I should also point out a few calendar events that we'll need to pay attention to on this topic:

- Our PS Parliamentary Secretary is looking for a IMVE brief on Thursday March 3 at 4:45pm
- The Public Safety and National Security Committee (SECU) has adopted the following motion on the rise of IMVE in Canada (they have started calling expert witnesses, GC members expected to start being called towards the end of March): *That pursuant to Standing Order 108(2), the committee undertake a study on the rise of Ideologically Motivated Violent Extremism (IMVE) in Canada; that this study include an investigation into the influence of foreign and domestic actors in funding and supporting violent extremist ideologies in Canada; that the study include the use of social media to fuel the IMVE movement; that the committee explore the impact of anonymous and foreign donations funding IMVE, including through crowdfunding sites; that the committee invite representatives from GiveSendGo to appear; that the committee further look at the role of payment processors in preventing the funding of IMVE and invite representatives from Paypal and Stripe to appear; that evidence and documentation received by the committee from upcoming appearances of representatives of GoFundMe and FINTRAC be included in this study; that this study include Canada's national security organizations and police involved in monitoring, countering and responding to IMVE threats; that the committee report its findings to the House; and that, pursuant to Standing Order 109, the government table a comprehensive response to the report.*
- Cross Border Crime Forum is having a planning session this week to discuss the items to be addressed by our Minister and Secretary Mayorkas towards the end of March. This includes an IMVE item **covering**: unclassified updates. Advanced by U.S. DHS, this would be used as an opportunity to reiterate the shared commitment to address violent extremism in all its forms.

In light of the need to stay on top of IMVE and coordinate efforts to get back to our Minister with answers and advice on a path forward, I'll look to Lesley Soper and the NSP Directorate in my Branch to bring people together to make sure the NS intel community, but also all the other aforementioned angles are covered.

I would expect she'll be looking to reach out to CPB and PACB, along with colleagues at CSIS, RCMP, PCO, etc.

Lesley, let me know if you need any further direction – but time is of the essence to start pulling some ideas together to show where we are focusing efforts. I know you have been leading a DG working group on this subject, and I have been privy to a whole bunch of conversations on a few other fronts (the ones I mentioned above, including online harms, Min security, OSINT analysis, misinformation, etc.). So there will be a need to factor all of this in to a plan for advice moving forward.

Many thanks,
Dom